

Rohypnol and GHB are causing concern. These drugs are silent and invisible—when hidden in a drink they may be completely undetectable. Yet, they are potent and destructive. They can seriously harm or even kill you.

How Could this Happen to Me?

You're at a party, a club, or a social event. You're with people you know, people you think you have no reason to fear. Someone secretly drops a drug like Rohypnol or GHB in your drink. When the drug dissolves, it is colorless and odorless. It may also be tasteless. As you consume the drink, the drug takes effect. You're now in a weakened state. You're so incapacitated that you can't escape or resist a rape, or even call out for help. You're sexually assaulted. When the drug wears off, you may not remember what happened or who participated because the drug often causes amnesia.

This may sound like an old story: "spiking the punch" or "slipping a Mickey" isn't new. What is new is that these drugs are especially dangerous. When combined with alcohol or other drugs, the mixture can be lethal.

What is Rohypnol?

Rohypnol is the brand name for flunitrazepam, a benzodiazepine drug. It is in the same family of medications as Valium and Xanax. (Rohypnol is seven to ten times as potent as Valium.) But, unlike these other drugs, Rohypnol has never been approved for medical use in the United States. It is illegal to manufacture, distribute, or possess Rohypnol in this country.

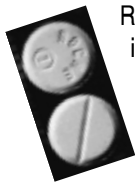


What are Rohypnol's effects?

Rohypnol is a fast acting sedative. The physical effects of the drug may be noticeable within 20 to 30 minutes after ingestion. It causes drowsiness, confusion, impaired motor skills, dizziness, disinhibition, dehydration, impaired judgement, and reduced levels of consciousness. You may seem to be drunk or you may be completely unconscious.

It is very dangerous to mix Rohypnol with alcohol or other drugs. The combination may produce extremely low blood pressure, respiratory depression, difficulty breathing, coma, or death. One of the most disturbing effects of Rohypnol is that it can produce complete or partial amnesia (loss of memory) for the events that take place after it is ingested. This means that you may not be able to remember what you did—or what was done to you—while you are under the influence of the drug, which may be a significant period of time. This effect is heightened when Rohypnol is ingested with alcohol.

What does it look like?



Rohypnol is most commonly found in tablet form. It is usually smuggled into this country in its original packaging—blister packs or bubble packs. The pills are also found to be packaged in bottles or ground into a powder. Rohypnol can also be found in liquid form.

How is Rohypnol abused?

Many people are being "drugged" by others in the club scene. When it is dissolved into a liquid you can't taste it, smell it, or see it. Because of this, you will not know it until it is too late.

Rohypnol Street Names

Ruffies, Roofies, Roches, Roaches, La Rochas, Rope, Rib, Forget Pill, Poor Man's Quaalude, R-2s, Circles, Dulcitas, Whiteys, Trip-and-Fall, Mind-Erasers, Mexican Valium, Lunch Money (referring to the low street price), Pappas, Potatoes, Negatives, Minuses (referring to the markings on the 1 mg. tablets), Pluses or Roche Dos (referring to the markings on the 2 mg. tablets).

What is GHB?

GHB is Gamma Hydroxybutyrate. It has been tested for potential medical uses such as an aid in sleep disorders, alcohol dependency, and as a nutritional supplement. The federal government has determined that beyond federal testing, there is no true medical use for GHB.

What are the effects of GHB?

GHB is a powerful synthetic drug that acts as a depressant on the central nervous system. It is rapidly metabolized by the body. The effects of the drug can be felt within 15 minutes after ingestion. GHB can cause dizziness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, dehydration, seizures, respiratory depression, intense drowsiness, unconsciousness, coma, and death. When GHB is mixed with alcohol or other drugs it could be fatal.

Two characteristics of GHB make it very dangerous: First, most GHB is commonly made in "street labs", bathrooms, or kitchens using various chemicals. These chemicals include a variety of solvents and caustic sodas. As a result, the purity is inconsistent and could result in very different effects. Second, there is a very narrow margin between the dose that produces intoxication and one that produces more harmful effects.

What does it look like?

GHB is most commonly made as a clear liquid that is colorless and odorless. It has also been made as a white crystalline powder. GHB could taste somewhat salty when ingested.



How is GHB being abused?

GHB is being distributed much the same way as Rohypnol; in bars, clubs, and raves. GHB is "dosed out" by capfuls, drops, or swigs. It is usually stored in sports bottles, water bottles, eye dropper bottles, dark bottles, or sample sized shampoo bottles. GHB can easily be dropped into someone's drink without their knowledge. When it is dissolved in liquid it is colorless and odorless. It can be detected by a salty taste.

GHB Street Names

Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Liquid X, Liquid E, Liquid Ecstasy, Easy Lay, G, Vita-G, G-Juice, Georgia Home Boy, Great Hormones, Bedtime Scoop, Soap, Gook, Gamma 10, and Energy Drink.

Penalties

It is illegal to possess or distribute Rohypnol or GHB in the state of Missouri. Possession or distribution of these drugs is a felony and is punishable by a prison sentence and/or heavy fine.

► Signs of Being Drugged

- If you feel more intoxicated than you usually do with the same amount of alcohol consumed ...
- If you wake up feeling “fuzzy” and you can’t remember a period of time ...
- If you remember taking a drink but can’t remember what happened after the drink ...
- If you feel as though someone had sex with you, but you can’t remember part or all of the encounter ...

► What To Do If It Happens To You

- Get to a safe place.
- Get help immediately.
- Ask a trusted individual to stay with you and assist in getting the help you need.
- Call the police.
- Get Medical Care.
- Go to a hospital emergency department as soon as possible for an examination and evidence collection.
- Inform hospital personnel that you suspect that you’ve been drugged and sexually assaulted. Request a urine sample be taken as soon as possible for future analysis. (Time is of the essence!)
- Preserve as much physical evidence as possible. Do not urinate, shower, bathe, douche, or throw away the clothing you were wearing during the incident. If possible, save any other materials that might provide evidence, such as the glass that held your drink.
- Call a rape crisis center for information and support.

► Taking Care of Yourself

- Don’t drink beverages you did not open.
- Don’t share or exchange drinks.
- Don’t drink from a container that is being passed around.
- If possible, bring your own drinks to parties.
- If someone offers to buy you a drink, accompany that person to get the drink and don’t allow the drink out of your control.
- Don’t leave your drink unattended—even to use the rest room.
- If you leave your drink unattended—discard it.
- Don’t drink anything that has an unusual taste or appearance (salty, excessive foam, residue).

► Watching Out For Your Friends

- Appoint a designated person to remain sober. Check on each other frequently.
- If one of your friends has any of the following symptoms—exceedingly intoxicated after drinking a beverage, passes out and is difficult to awaken, difficulty in breathing, or behaving in an uncharacteristic way—help your friend by ensuring their safety and seek medical attention. Call 9-1-1. Remember: There is no antidote for GHB.
- If you hear that someone is “dosing” a drink or a punch bowl, intervene. Warn potential victims and/or get help.
- Warn friends about high-risk situations, such as clubs where “dosing” is known to have occurred.

For the Missouri State Highway Patrol Headquarters nearest you, consult your local directory.

Meth Hotline
1-888-823-METH (6348)

Emergency Assistance
1-800-525-5555
or cellular *55

Road Conditions
1-800-222-6400
or (573) 526-8828



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